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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(1) Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 9-18, with the following amended paragraph:

Small form factor (~~SSF~~) (SFF) media are rapidly gaining popularity for use in connection with various consumer devices. For example, consumer devices, such as personal computers (PCs), handheld computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs) etc., often integrate removable (or pluggable) media products, including Compact Flash, ATA Flash, Memory Stick (e.g., from Sony), Secure Digital (SD), and Multimedia Card (MMC). Such media devices are useful tools for downloading music files from a PC to a portable audio player, or transferring pictures from a digital camera to the PC. In addition to media products, various SFF devices have been (and continually are being) developed for communications applications (wired and wireless), pointing devices, as well as other applications intended to augment functionality of a computing device.

(2) Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 11-18, with the following amended paragraph:

By way of example, if a user inserts a ~~SSF~~ SFF device into a corresponding slot of a computer (or other microprocessor based device) that does not leverage an existing bus in the operating system, the device will not work absent supplemental support from the device vendor. Such supplemental support, for example, includes the vendor providing an appropriate bus driver for the new bus and a device driver for the ~~SSF~~ SFF device. Thus, to provide a positive experience for the end user, the vendor must ensure that the end user has access to the required bus driver and the device driver, such as through installation media (e.g., a disk) or a vendor Web site.

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(3) Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 27–page 3, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention generally relates to a system and method to facilitate use of various Small Form Factor (~~SSF~~) (SFF) devices at a common connector, which devices can employ different bus protocols from that of a bus associated with the connector. A selector is operative to connect a removable SFF device to the associated bus through a selected one of a plurality of interfaces based on the ~~SSF~~ SFF device. For example, one of the interfaces can operate as a pass-through (*e.g.*, a direct data coupling), which enables the system to employ the bus protocol between the device and the bus without protocol conversion. The other interface (*e.g.*, a controller) can be operative to convert between the device protocol and the bus protocol. The selectable interfaces thus enable different types of I/O devices and media to be supported at a common connector by programming and/or configuring the devices to appear as devices native to the bus.

(4) Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 23-30, with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates to communication between an associated bus, such as employs a standard bus protocol, and a connector to which a removable ~~SSF~~ SFF device can be attached. The system is operative to select a desired operating mode, such as either to pass the protocol between the bus and device unchanged or to implement a suitable protocol conversion, based on the device attached at the connector. Thus, by configuring the ~~SSF~~ SFF device to appear as device currently supported by the bus, the ~~SSF~~ SFF device can operate at the connector with native operating system support in accordance with an aspect of the present invention.

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(5) Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 18-29, with the following amended paragraph:

The selector 160 also is programmed and/or configured to connect the connector 154 with the bus 152 *via* the controller 164, such as in a situation when the device 156, 158 does not use a protocol supported by the bus 152. When coupled with the bus 152, the controller 164 is operative to expose a SFF storage device 158 attached at the connector 154, for example, as a USB mass storage device. That is, the controller 164 operates as a USB mass storage controller that implements appropriate protocol conversion between the protocol of the attached device 158 and the USB protocol of the bus 152. Accordingly, when the SFF device is attached at the connector and coupled to the bus 152, the operating system can install a USB mass storage class driver so that the attached device works without user intervention. Because such conversion is well known in the art, details of such conversion have been omitted for sake of brevity. Thus, the ~~SSF~~ SFF device 158 can leverage existing class drivers for the existing bus protocol.

(6) Please amend the paragraph on page 26, lines 2-8, with the following amended paragraph:

A system and method to facilitate communication between an associated bus, such as employs a standard bus protocol, and a connector to which a removable ~~SSF~~ SFF device can be attached. A desired operating mode is selected based on the device attached at the connector, such as either to pass the protocol between the bus and device generally unchanged or to implement suitable protocol conversion for such communication. Thus, by configuring the ~~SSF~~ SFF device to appear as device currently supported by the bus, the ~~SSF~~ SFF device can operate at the connector with native operating system support.